

## **Design Build Materials Testing Laboratories**

### **Policy**

All QA testing will be performed by an WSDOT approved laboratory reporting directly to the Design Builder's Engineer of Record. The laboratory personnel may be employed by the Design Builder, or a sub contractor. The laboratory shall meet the requirements of AASHTO R-18 for qualified testers and calibrated/verified equipment and be able to accomplish the testing according to the test procedure they are performing.

WSDOT approval of the laboratory will be required. WSDOT will perform an on-site evaluation of the facility to ensure all work is being performed according to the contract standards. The evaluation includes both audit and inspection functions, including reviewing training records, reviewing equipment calibration and verification records, and witnessing DB testers performing the test procedures.

The laboratory shall be properly equipped, staffed, and fully operational for WSDOT inspection a minimum of five (5) days prior to start of work. The Design Builder will be advised in writing of any deficiencies noted during WSDOT inspection and must take immediate action to correct the noted deficiencies. Work will not be permitted to proceed until the laboratory and staff is inspected and has received written approval from the WSDOT Materials Engineer.

At a minimum for all DB contracts, the test equipment for the following test procedures shall be as shown so that proper correlation between the QA and QV test results may be established.

- WSDOT FOP for AASHTO T308 Asphalt Content by Ignition Method (Barnstead Thermolyne Model F85938 or other approved ignition furnace with internal balance).
- AASHTO T-310 and WAQTC TM8 In-place Densities by Nuclear Method (Troxler 3430 Series Moisture/Density Gauge)

### **Discussion**

When contractor's testing is used for acceptance, federal regulations require that the laboratory used for the contractors acceptance testing has to be qualified.

An AASHTO accredited laboratory could be used for testing, however AASHTO does not offer accreditation in all testing that is expected to be performed on future projects (including testing for field densities, or other tests that are not listed in AASHTO

standards). WSDOT must perform inspections of the DB laboratory to ensure that the DB firm is using qualified testers and verified equipment. Can we require both? (If AASHTO then WSDOT only approves xxx, if not AASHTO then WSDOT approves everything)